

**IN THE CLAIMS****1-2 (Cancelled)****3. (Previously amended) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle comprising:**

a pivot joint having a first member pivotally engaging a second member, pivot openings in the first and second members, and a pivot pin extending through the pivot openings;

first and second spring brackets being attached to one side of the pivot joint, the first spring bracket attaching to the first member, and the second spring bracket attaching to the second member;

a spring being located between the first and second spring brackets and attached thereof;

a pivot lock; and

wherein the pivot lock temporarily prevents the pivot joint from pivoting, and the pivot joint pivots vertically.

**4. (Original) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 3, wherein the pivot lock further comprises:**

gauge openings in the first and second members; and

a gauge pin inserted through the gauge openings.

**5. (Withdrawn)****6. (Original) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 3, wherein the spring is a compressible fluid spring.****7. (Original) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 6, further comprising:**

a shock absorber attached to the first and second members opposite the spring.

**8. (Original) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 3, further comprising:**

a hitch assembly fastened to a first end of the pivot joint.

9. (Original) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 8, further comprising:  
a receiver matingly engaging the pivot joint at a second end opposite the hitch assembly.

10-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 13, comprising:  
a first member having a tongue;  
a second member having a slot;  
a pivot joint having the slot pivotally engaging the tongue;  
a spring attaching to the first member and the second member;  
pivot openings in the tongue and the second member;  
a pivot pin extending through the pivot openings;  
a pivot lock wherein the pivot lock further comprises: comprising gauge openings in the tongue and second member; member, and a gauge pin inserted through the gauge openings; and  
wherein the pivot lock temporarily prevents the pivot joint from pivoting, and the pivot joint pivots vertically.

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Currently amended) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 13, comprising:  
a first member having a tongue;  
a second member having a slot;  
a pivot joint having the slot pivotally engaging the tongue;  
a spring attaching to the first member and the second member;  
pivot openings in the tongue and the second member;  
a pivot pin extending through the pivot openings;

a pivot lock;  
wherein the pivot lock temporarily prevents the pivot joint from pivoting, and the pivot  
joint pivots vertically; and  
wherein the spring is a compressible fluid spring.

17. (Original) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 16, further comprising:  
a shock absorber attached to the first member and the second member opposite the  
compressible fluid spring.

18. (Currently amended) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 13 14, further  
comprising:

a hitch assembly fastened to a first end of the pivot joint.

19. (Original) A tow bar assembly for a vehicle of claim 18, further comprising:  
a receiver matingly engaging a second end of the pivot joint opposite the hitch  
assembly.